

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:WCAMPBELL

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:PSHANKLE

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 271375

TOSEC 39

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO PARIS RABAT TUNIS
USUN NY DEC 11, 1974 FROM ALGIERS REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 2747

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINR, AG

SUBJ: DEATH OF MINISTER OF INTERIOR AHMED MEDEGHRI:
RECOMMENDATION THAT SECRETARY SEND MESSAGE
OF CONDOLENCE

1. ALGERIA IS MOURNING TODAY OVER DEATH OF MINISTER
OF INTERIOR AHMED MEDEGHRI AT 1230 DECEMBER 10 IN ALGIERS.
ACCORDING TO PRESS, DEATH WAS "ACCIDENTAL" AND COMMISSION
HEADED BY MINHEALTH HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO DETERMINE
CAUSE. THREE DAYS NATIONAL MOURNING HAVE BEEN DECLARED
AND FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA AND MININDUSTRY AND ENERGY
ABDESSELAM ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN FROM NEW YORK AND
VIENNA RESPECTIVELY TO ATTEND FUNERAL DECEMBER 12.

2. AS MININTERIOR, MEMBER OF COUNCIL OF REVOLUTION AND
CLOSE COMPANION AND CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE
SINCE PRE-INDEPENDENCE DAYS WITH NATIONAL LIBERATION
ARMY (OUJDA GROUP), MEDEGHRI WAS MEMBER OF ALGERIA'S
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INNER RULING CIRCLE. A HARD WORKER WITH GIFT FOR

ORGANIZATION, HE WAS MOVING FORCE BEHIND ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION OF LAST SUMMER AND EARLIER CREATION OF COMMUNAL AND WILAYA ASSEMBLIES. HE ALSO OVERSAW ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES (SURETE NATIONALE). BEYOND BEING TRUSTED ADVISOR OF BOUMEDIENE, HE WAS ELEMENT OF STABILITY IN GOVERNMENT AND WILL BE SORELY MISSED. HE WILL ALSO BE ESPECIALLY MISSED BY BOUTEFILKA WITH WHOM HE FREQUENTLY JOINED FORCES IN INNER SANCTUM POLITICAL WRANGLING.

3. WHILE CAUSE OF DEATH HAS NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, WE SUSPECT IT WAS NATURAL. MEDEGHRI HAD NEVER FULLY RECOVERED FROM 1971 OPERATION FOR CANCER OF ALIMENTARY CANAL/ESOPHAGUS AND HIS HEALTH HAD DECLINED SERIOUSLY IN PAST FEW MONTHS. HE TIRED QUICKLY AND WAS REPORTEDLY TAKING DRUGS TO REDUCE PAIN.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. SINCE MEDEGHRI WAS OFFICIAL ESCORT OF SECRETARY DURING HIS OCTOBER VISIT TO ALGIERS, WE RECOMMEND THAT SECRETARY SEND MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE TO PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE MENTIONING MEDEGHRI'S SERVICE TO ALGERIAN NATION AND PEOPLE.
BARR UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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